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Of the Church · By the Church · For the Church

Luther League Review

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE LUTHER LEAGUE OF AMERICA

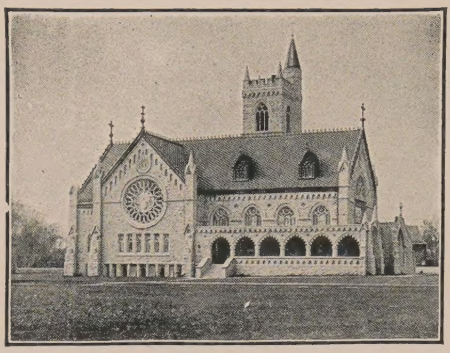
GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST

"PRAISE THE LORD"

PEACE ON EARTH GOOD WILL TO MEN

CHRISTMAS-NUMBER

Next Convention of the Luther League of America in Buffalo, 1904



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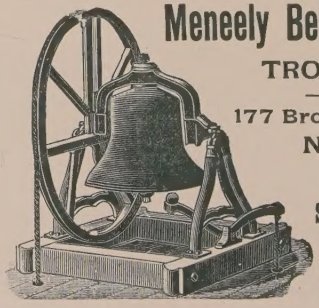

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Of the Church—By the Church—For the Church

Luther League Review

Luther's Gift to the World

Of the Christmas Tree

Dr. Theophilus Stork

Compiled by the Literature Secretary

LUTHER restored to Protestant Christendom the true ideal and experience of the old Christmas festival. All life to

him was now a festival of joy and praise for the holy child Jesus. "He had found the Christ; and when he was not kneeling with the shepherds, he was singing with the angels." And this new consciousness and experience of a personal, present Saviour, illumined and sanctified the memory of his early Christmas days. In his old age, he speaks of his school-days at Magdeburg with delightful reminiscences of Christmas: "At the season when the Church keeps the fes-

tival of Christ's birth, we scholars went through the hamlets, from house to house, singing in quartette the familiar hymns about Jesus, the little child born at Bethlehem."

And not only to Luther, but to all the Protestant families of Germany, Christmas Eve came with a new welcome of joy. "The eyes of men grew bright, and those of women were suffused with tears of gratitude, and children shouted for gladness at the mention of the name of One who had led back the race to the cradle, and taught them how to bow there, as did the shepherds, in childlike trust —trust not in the mother, but in her holy child."

The accompanying illustration, with its Christmas Hymn and the Children's Hosanna, is a perfect representation of a domestic Christmas Eve. The instrument in Luther's hand suggests that he has just paused in his playing and is leading in the singing of some sweet Christmas melody. It is a picture that touches the heart. It moreover brings into living view the great Reformer in the sweet, domestic enjoyment of Christmas, the happiest season of the year, and most exhilarating social festival of the Church.

Luther, in his teaching, restored to Christendom the true conception of the Christchild, and the true meaning of the angels' song over the wonders of Bethlehem; and in his own experience and example, he has given the true ideal of Christmas in the family. This ideal of Christmas Eve has mingled in the thoughts and songs and poetry of our finest literature.

And so, as of old in Luther's home, let Christmas be hailed with a joyous welcome in all the families of Christendom. Let it be a Christian festival in the household as well as in the Church. Let it be a season for the warm outflow of all kindliness and love, and the sweet ministries of the heart and home life. Let every happy home be made happier by the Christmas tree, with its fruit-laden branches dropping gifts into all hands. Christmas Day brings a gift to all the world; for though in many a poor man's home there be no tree, yet where the tree is absent, the manger stands present. Happy is he who, on Christmas Day, abides within its sacred shadow, and receives the gift of gifts which God gave to the world in Him who is "the chief among ten thousand and the one altogether lovely." Then let all unite in the joy and the song of earth and heaven, as voiced in the familiar Christmas hymn of Luther:

Good news from heaven the angels bring,
Glad tidings to the earth they sing:
To us this day a Child is given,
To crown us with the joy of heaven.

This is the Christ, our God and Lord,
Who in all need shall aid afford;
He will Himself our Saviour be,
From all our sins to set us free.

To us that blessedness He brings,
Which from the Father's bounty springs:
That in the heavenly realm we may
With Him enjoy eternal day.

All hail, Thou noble Guest, this morn,
Whose Love did not the sinner scorn:
In my distress Thou comest to me;
What thanks shall I return to Thee?

Were earth a thousand times as fair,
Beset with gold and jewels rare,
She yet were far too poor to be
A narrow cradle, Lord, for Thee.

Ah, dearest Jesus, holy Child,
Make Thee a bed, soft, undefiled,
Within my heart, that it may be
A quiet chamber kept for Thee.

Praise God upon His heavenly throne,
Who gave to us His only Son:
For this His hosts, on joyful wing,
A blest New Year of mercy sing.

Written for The Luther League Review.

In Days of Old

BY ERLE GREINER.

In days of old, the angels sang
Their song of praise and glory;
Through earth and heaven the message rang,
So wide they spread their story:
"All glory be to God on high,"
So loud the anthem ringing,
Yet cities and the rurals lie
Unconscious of their singing.

The shepherds, watching through the night,
Lay still in silent wonder,
As nearer came the dazzling light,
With hosts of angels under.
Again their herald makes the cry,
"Go, seek Messiah given;
In Bethlehem, yon village nigh,
You'll find the King of Heaven."

"All glory be to God on high,"
Again the throng is singing.
And, list! The others then reply,
"Good-will to men He's bringing."
Peace to the earth this Christmas Day,
Let joy be without measure,
Let men join angels in the lay,
The thanks for priceless treasure.

God has placed men in this world not simply to dig gold or to make clothes or to print books, but so to do these things as to make themselves more faithful, hopeful and loving.

Christmas Thoughts

By a Few of Our College Presidents

CHRISTMAS belongs pre-eminently to the young. Each year as the day approaches it becomes plain that the uppermost thought, not only in the home, but also in the school and in the store and shop, is to please the children and young people, and to make them happy. It is right that it should be so, for it was Christ's coming into the world as the Babe of Bethlehem that sanctified childhood and youth in the eyes of all who accept His teachings.

The sad thing is that this fact should be so little remembered or appreciated by so many children and young people. Let every "Merry Christmas" greeting carry our minds back to the angel's announcement to the shepherds, and every gift made or received cause us to remember the "unspeakable gift" of God when He gave His Son to be our Saviour. Only so can we get the real good of Christmas, and make it a true holy day as well as a glad holiday.

Christmas has come to us at great cost to Him whose birth we celebrate, and he who would consider its full significance cannot afford to overlook the price of this gift to men. That there might be a Christmas at all it cost Jesus the glory and fellowship of Heaven and imposed upon Him the limitations and humiliation of earth. He was like a prince, away from the homeland with its honors, luxuries and intimacies, traveling *incognito* among aliens whose strange speech and customs only served to emphasize His conscious isolation. There was much in His earthly life aside from the sins of men which made it a discipline for Him. Christ's human existence in itself was humbling. To become a man, to be a servant, to suffer insult and rejection, were only preliminary to His humiliation on the cross. In it all was the clear vision of that cross. Its shadow fell full upon Him at Bethlehem, for the song of the angels was meaningless without its reference to Calvary. May our contemplation of this fact chasten our holiday festivities into a spiritual joy, which strengthens to a true devotion of our all to Him.

To young Lutherans the Christmas time is properly a joyous time. No one has a better right than Lutherans to enjoy the happy day that commemorates the birth of Christ. We celebrated that day for a good many years, while some of our non-Lutheran friends were afraid of it. We helped greatly to keep it in the Church calendar. We have a right to rejoice. Then, too, our dear Church is so strong in its Christ-ward theology that it would indeed be strange if we failed to make much of the Savior's natal day. There is no other denomination that places such emphasis upon the atonement as does the Lutheran, and the incarnation is preparatory. Let your joy, therefore, be full, because on this day Christ was born.

The birth of Christ is the greatest event in the world's history, yet few persons were then aware of what was taking place. We celebrate His birth at a time of the year when we see the least of the sun's light, yet He is the light of the world. With us all of nature seems to be dead, but He brings us resurrection and life. The world was spiritually dead in sin, but He brought forgiveness of sins and newness of life.

"Once a Year"

By J. A Detzer, Editor of Illustrated Home Journal

THERE is an old refrain, rhyme, or proverb which is frequently quoted at this time of the year, to the effect that "Christmas comes but once a year"—a truism which certainly permits of no contradiction and seems to offer no foothold for discussion. To many, unfortunately, who look upon Christmas as being merely a season of noisy revelry and upheaval to which our homes and vocations are subjected, on the ground that since it does come but once a year we can manage to put up with it for the sake of custom and the younger members of our respective families, this day coming "once a year" may mean but a new burden added to the many burdens of a hopeless life. For the men and women of the world, Christmas is, indeed, but a season of haste and waste, the suspension of ordinary duties, physical weariness, a depleted purse, and a more than customary plunging into the sensual, selfish, carnal, wicked pleasures and dissipations to which they have given their hearts and lives.

What a different meaning this old phrase

imparts to the mind of a Christian! What joys, what happiness it promises! Childen's carols, jubilant songs of gratitude, the organ's tempestuous strains of praise, brilliantly illuminated churches, myriads of lighted candles, and the glories of the Christmas tree—all proclaiming to a saved world the angel's message: "Fear not, for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord." To the Christian this day coming "once a year" means an expression of the boundless fullness of God's grace brought to fallen man in the great chorus sung down from heaven's immeasurable heights: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." Even the godless element cannot escape the thrill of joy that sweeps over the world—"once a year." The great and glorious news of the angel and the exquisitely beautiful and wonderful song of the heavenly hosts, first announced and sung over the plains of Bethlehem.

Salvation Through Faith

By Anna M. Landis

FAITH is a powerful telescope through which we can behold the beauties of a world beyond the vast firmament of heaven; it is an expectant longing for something great that shall transpire—perhaps presently, perhaps far in the future. Faith is also that power of the soul which enables us to believe and perform our duties in the hope of final joy and triumph.

Christianity believes in and embraces a divine power which cannot be seen, while heathendom reverences that which is visible to the eye at all times. This latter view, however, we can scarcely call faith, for when knowledge of that which is sought is obtained faith ceases.

St. Paul, in writing to the Romans, exhorts them to strengthen their faith, for through faith only can salavtion come. Christ is the life-giving fountain, where we can quench our thirsty souls—yea, He is more, He is life, and He it was who brought life and immortality to light into the world.

Everywhere we look we see the work of God's mighty hand; "the heaven's declare His glory and the firmament showeth His handiwork." We do not deserve God's great goodness to us, but yet His mercy never waneth, for as far as the East is from the West so great is His mercy toward them that fear Him.

Many people, even some professed Christians, think that their good works will win for them the fadeless crown. There is much so-called charity in the world to-day, but not prompted by love. True charity is love in its broadest sense, and it is only through works which dominate from love, which is faith in God, that salvation can be ours.

How, then, shall we get that faith so necessary for our soul's salvation? We must go to the Bible—read its sacred pages, and there find a balm for our sin-sick soul. How blessed that we have access to that precious Book which contains a life-saving remedy! To those who do not have access to God's Holy Word it is our duty to impart to them the divine truths. Our Church believes in the instruction of God's Word to the youth as well as to the adult of the Church, and how thankful we should feel that Luther has given us the Catechism, that sacred little volume from which we early learned the way of life.

"Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved," is all that is required of us. Have faith in all His promises. Often we feel sad and lonely, thinking of loved ones gone, but Jesus whispers: "Come unto Me all ye who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." We look up, and from henceforth we go to our various duties in life feeling refreshed with the wonderful promise that some day we, too, shall share in the eternal rest of those who have won this salvation.

Young Men and Their Use

In looking over quite a long ministry three things are impressed upon my mind: First, that the most fruitful and reliable work of the Church is with the boys and the young men; second, that you look out for the young men and the Church will take care of itself; third, that among a pastor's sweetest memories is the fruitage of his labors with young men. No pen can express the worth of young men to the Church. Let pastors remember this.—*Rev. Smith Baker, D.D.*

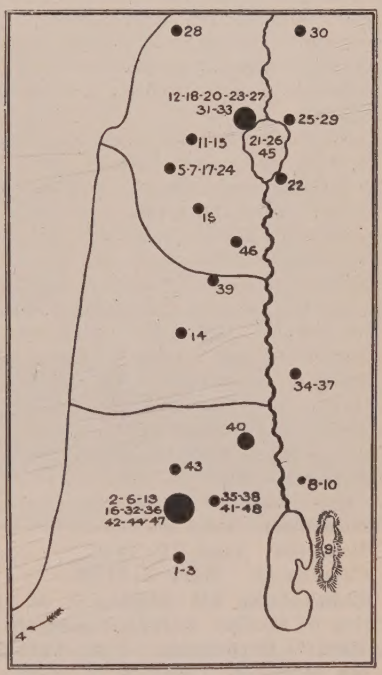
A Christmas Exercise for Luther Leagues

Devised by Rev. Charles L. Fry

Correspondence 1920 N 7th St., Philadelphia, Pa.

THE placing of 48 lighted little Christmas candles of various bright colors, on a large white background, in the sight of the whole audience, and the interspersing of half a dozen beautiful familiar carols in which young and old can join, are the features that will lend to this unique Luther League celebration of the Christmas festival, the charm of perpetual motion and picturesque effect. At the same time it is a service of such perfect propriety and dignity as will make a permanent impression on every heart of the facts of our Lord's earthly life, such as could not be gained without a striking object lesson of this kind. The entire Sunday school, in all grades, will be fascinated by its luminous manner of telling the old, old story of Jesus and His love, and the 48 participants might be selected from the Luther League, or even from the Junior League, if their voices be strong enough to be heard. The whole exercise, from beginning to end, need not occupy much more than an hour, and thus plenty of time will be left for the distribution of Christmas sweets at the close, if the festival be held on Christmas Day. Possibly the best time, this year, would be as a separate Luther League occasion, on Sunday evening, December 27 at 6.30 or 7 o'clock, thus supplementing the regular Christmas celebration of the school.

The plan is so readily carried out, and the simple home-made apparatus is so free from cost, and so easily within every League's or Sunday School's ability to construct, that it is equally feasible in city and country alike. Then, too, it will interest and instruct 60-year-old folks as much as six, and all ages between. Last but not least, it will make such abominations as Santa Claus performances seem sheer sacrilege in a sanctuary, consecrated to be kept scrupulously invisible from all unhallowed uses. An enlarged *fac-simile* of this rudimentary map of the Holy Land should be made of such light wood as will not make the big, finished plaque, 5 feet wide and 9 feet high, too clumsy or heavy to be lifted and set in place in the center of the platform. Its entire surface, bottom as well as top, should be comfortably in sight of everybody in the congregation. Several empty lemon boxes, which



may be had for the asking at any grocery, and three strips of scantling 9 feet long, are all the materials needed. Rub the surface as smooth as possible, give it two coats of white paint, and frame it in Christmas evergreen, after having drawn with a camel's-hair brush the black lines as shown in the model, omit-

ting all the numbers (which are put there merely for your convenience). Print the name of each town and body of water in plain letters, heavy enough to be easily read. Insert as many long, slender screw-eyes as there are numbers at each spot. These are for receptacles to hold the lighted colored tapers about 1 inch away from the board, and the heads should be of exactly the right size to fit the candles. At Capernaum arrange the candles in the form of a capital C.

At Jerusalem place the nine lights in the form of a slanting cross, so that the lights will not interfere with each other.

PROGRAMME OF THE FESTIVAL.

Opening hymn: "Silent Night."

Reading of the Christmas Gospel: Luke II: 8-20.

The Festival Prayer.

Carol: "Come Hither Ye Faithful!"

First candle lighted, and placed in one of the two receptacles at Bethlehem by a pupil who recites by heart, in clear, distinct voice, Luke II: 1-7.

Next candle placed at Jerusalem, the passage to be recited being Luke II: 25-32.

3. Bethlehem again, Matt. II: 7-12.
4. Egypt. Matt. II: 13-15.
5. Nazareth. Matt. II: 19-23.
6. Jerusalem. Luke II: 41-46.
7. Back to Nazareth. Luke II: 49-52.

Singing of a favorite Christmas hymn.

8. The Jordan. Matt. III: 13-17.
9. The Wilderness. Mark I: 12, 13.
10. Back to the Jordan. John I: 35-41.
11. Cana in Galilee. John II: 1-3.
12. Capernaum. John II: 11, 12.
13. Jerusalem. John II: 13-16.
14. Samaria. John IV: 3-7.
15. Cana. John IV: 46-50.
16. Jerusalem. John V: 1-9.
17. Nazareth. Luke IV: 14-21.
18. Capernaum. Mark I: 21-26.
19. Nain. Luke VII: 11-15.

Singing of another well-known carol.

20. Back to Capernaum. Luke VII: 36-38.
21. Sea of Galilee. Matt VIII: 23-27.
22. The Opposite Shore. Matt. VIII: 28-32.
23. Capernaum. Mark V: 21-23.
24. Nazareth. Mark VI: 1-5.
25. Upper Coast of the Sea. Mark VI: 30-46.
26. Walks on the Sea. Mark VI: 47-51.
27. Capernaum. John VI: 22-27.
28. Border of Tyre and Sidon. Matt. XV: 21-28.
29. Upper Coast of the Sea. Matt. XV: 29-32.
30. Mount Hermon. Matt. XVII: 1-3.
31. Capernaum. Matt. XVII: 24-27.
32. Jerusalem. John VII: 1-5.
33. Capernaum. Luke X: 1, 2.

Singing of next to the last hymn.

34. Perea. Matt. XIX: 1, 2.
35. Bethany. Luke X: 38-42.
36. Jerusalem. John X: 22-25.
37. Perea again. John X: 39-42.
38. Bethany. John XI: 1-4.
39. Border of Galilee. Luke XVII: 11-15.
40. Jericho. Mark X: 46-52.
41. Bethany. Mark XI: 1-11.
42. Jerusalem. In this city Jesus rides in triumph on Palm Sunday; the shouts soon turn into hisses; eats the Passover for the last time; washes the disciples' feet; institutes the Lord's Supper; the agony in Gethsemane; the arrest by Judas' band; Peter's denial in the high priest's hall; Jesus before Pilate and Herod; scourged and crowned with thorns; crucified, dead and buried; the guard at the tomb; the empty sepulchre on the third day; appearances, first to Mary Magdalene, second to the other women, third to Simon Peter.
43. Emmaus. Luke XXIV: 13-16.
44. Jerusalem. John XX: 19, 20; 24-28.
45. Sea of Galilee. John XXI: 1-6.
46. A Mountain in Galilee. Matt. XXVIII: 16-20.
47. Jerusalem. Acts I: 3-5.
48. Mount of Olives. Acts I: 9-12.

Closing hymn, "Joy to the World."

Before the closing prayer and the benediction, let the lights of the sanctuary be turned low, so that the 48 Christmas tapers may shine out with more beautiful radiance, and the people may spend the few last minutes in silent contemplation of the scenes of the brief earth-life of Him whose name is called Wonderful, Counselor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.

LET EACH CLASS MAKE A CHRISTMAS GIFT to the poor, as a source of sweetest joy in this blessed season of good-will to men. Write to your Orphan's Home, asking what sizes of shoes, clothing, underwear, or what articles of groceries and foodstuffs are most urgently needed. Do not forget the poor of your own congregation in the distribution of such garments and provisions. Make a test, and see how true is the assurance of God's Word that "it is more blessed to give than to receive."

Luther League of New Jersey

Eighth Convention, at Elizabeth, November 3

By T. Clem Beck

THE eighth annual convention of the Luther League of New Jersey was held in the Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Holy Trinity, Elizabeth, N. J., the Rev. Fred. C. Krapf, pastor, Tuesday, November 3, 1903. Early during the day delegates assembled, and the first session was held at 2 o'clock in the afternoon.

The business session was one of the best attended in the history of the State League. The opening services were conducted by the Rev. E. E. Neudewitz of Jersey City, chairman of the Executive Committee. The president of the local League, Mr. Clarence R. Kline, welcomed the delegates and visitors, which was responded to by the Rev. Mr. Neudewitz.

In the absence of the rec. sec., Miss Lena Block, Mr. T. Clem Beck was chosen secretary *pro tem.*

The report of the president was read. It contained many good suggestions, and it was clearly—though modestly—brought out that much work had been accomplished during the year. It especially brought out the fact that the officers and committees had rendered valued assistance in the performance of his labors.

Further attention was called to the fact that the various rallies during the year seemed to be productive of much good, and did much to keep up the interest of the various local Leagues.

The treasurer, Mrs. Prudence Kerr-Kreuger, of Camden, N. J., reported a balance in the treasury.

The Executive Committee reported having held three meetings during the year, and had given encouraging accounts thereof.

The Extension Committee, Mr. T. Clem Beck, chairman, Elizabeth, reported that as the fruits of their labors three applications are to be considered for admission to the State League.

A GROUP OF DELEGATES IN FRONT OF HOLY TRINITY CHURCH

The Credential Committee, Mr. Jacob Martin, chairman, Elizabeth, reported 34 duly accredited delegates as having presented their credentials, which exceeds by twice the representation at any previous convention. This was very gratifying, as was demonstrated by the enthusiasm displayed at the convention. The following societies were admitted to membership of the State League:

Young Men's Luther League of Holy Trinity English Lutheran Church, Hoboken, N. J., Rev. Chas. T. McDaniel, pastor.

Augustana Young People's Society of Zion Swedish Lutheran Church of Paterson, N. J., Rev. A. Aaron, pastor.

Luther League of Grace Evangelical Lu-

theran Church of Perth Amboy, N. J., Rev. E. J. Keuling, pastor.

The election of officers for the ensuing year resulted as follows:

President, Rev. Chas. T. McDaniel, Hoboken.

First Vice-President, Miss Lena Block, Newark.

Second Vice-President, Mr. Clarence R. Kline, Cranford.

Third Vice-President, Miss Hilma Lindquist, Paterson.

Recording Secretary, Miss Stella Coble, Asbury Park.

Corresponding Secretary, Miss Elise Shultz, Jersey City.

Treasurer, Mrs. M. Rea Kunkleman, Atlantic City.

The selection of delegates for the National Convention, to be held in Buffalo in 1904, was referred to the Executive Committee.

An invitation from Grace Church, Newark, Rev. M. S. Waters, pastor, was extended for the next State Convention, which was accepted. The date for the convention to be decided upon by the Executive Committee.

The resolutions which had already been acted upon and approved by the New York and Pennsylvania State Leagues regarding the plans of Extension Work, Guarantee Fund for the salary of the General Secretary, the Deaconess' Calling, etc., were approved in so far as they could be applied to the work in New Jersey.

Wm. C. Stoever, Esq., president of the Luther League of America, addressed the convention, presenting not only the greeting from the National League, but also, greetings from Pennsylvania by request of President Bard.

Rev. Luther M. Kuhns, the National Secretary, on account of other arrangements, at this time addressed the convention with stirring remarks, which held the convention spellbound, and it was only to be regretted that they were so brief.

Through the courtesy of Mr. Edgar W. Smith of Elizabeth a picture of the convention was taken, a reproduction of which appears with this report.

A vote of thanks to the local League was expressed by a unanimous vote for the entertainment furnished.

The business being completed, the convention adjourned the business session.

Promptly at 7.45 p.m. the programme for the evening session was begun.

The newly elected president conducted the liturgical service. The Rev. Chas. L. Fry of Philadelphia, Literature Secretary of the Luther League of America, spoke on the subject, "The Sword of the Lord and of Gideon." Frank A. Hartranft, Esq., of Philadelphia, of the Executive Committee and chairman of the Finance Committee of the Luther League of America, spoke on "Our Duties to Our Institutions," and the Rev. E. J. Keuling of Perth Amboy on the subject, "The Junior League: Is it Proper, Is It Practicable, Is it Profitable?" The organist at both sessions was Miss Mary Martin.

The president read the following appointments:

Executive Committee:

Rev. E. E. Neudewitz, Jersey City, chairman.
Rev. A. Aaron, Passaic.
Louis van Gilluwe, Asbury Park.
Rev. Emil Fischer, Elizabeth.
Miss Otilia Kiesele, Newark.

Extension Committee:

Rev. E. J. Keuling, Perth Amboy, chairman.
C. E. Whitcom, Newark.
Mr. Fogg, Ridgewood.
T. Clem Beck, Elizabeth.
Nels E. Grill, Passaic.

Credential Committee:

Jacob Martin, Elizabeth, chairman.
A. Laux, Elizabeth.
J. L. Mathesheimer, Jersey City.
Christian Osmer, Hoboken.
H. C. Thieson, Jersey City.

After the closing exercises the delegates and visitors who were unable to return to their homes were looked after by the Entertainment Committee of the local League, Miss Laura Meyer, chairman.

Unfavorable Symptoms

We often speak of worldliness as if it consisted in theater-going, dancing, card-playing. These, however, are but symptoms of the disease. Worldliness in itself is life wholly conditioned within material things; life, therefore, in which there is the stultification of the spiritual. A man is not necessarily worldly because he is successful in business; but if his gold is finding its way into his heart, and if his getting is for the sake of possessing, and not in order that he may use his gains as the steward of God, then he is abusing the world, and, when he is thus loving the world, the love of the Father is not in him.—Rev. G. Campbell Morgan.

To rise each morning with a thought of God in the soul, left over to fill a new mission from the night before; to kneel ere descending the stairs for the consecration of your life and the renewed assurance of His guidance of you, just for that day—this is true preface of a beautiful life.—*Exchange.*

Book Reviews

By Rev. F. H. Knubel

Biblical Criticism. A Brief Discussion of Its History, Principles and Methods. By John A. W. Haas, D.D. With an Introduction by Henry E. Jacobs, D.D., LL.D. Pp. xxxi, 233. $1.50. General Council Publication Board, 1522 Arch street, Philadelphia.

It is just to say that this is one of the most valuable books which have recently appared in America. Writing from the standpoint of long study and of a devout Christian mind, the author presents a broad and in general well arranged view of the entire field of Biblical Criticism. His conclusions are throughout conservative, while allowing the rights which criticism have gained or may demand. Telling arguments are frequently massed, a half-dozen on a page. The book is thus an excellent stimulant for those who are fearful, and an antidote for those who have been poisoned by radical venom. The tone throughout is judicious, patient, courteous and considerate—an element which is lacking in most treatises upon this subject. Dr. Jacobs' introduction is masterly in its conceptions of the Word, and in its statement of the Lutheran Church's position. Our space does not permit the mention of much detail. We must, however, express our great satisfaction with the author's threefold division of the field of Biblical Criticism: Textual, Literary, Historical; likewise with the laws of Word-lists, in connection with the literary argument; also with the chapter on Old Testament Textual Criticism. These deserve special commendation. Matters which did not impress us so favorably have doubtless been caused, in large measure, by condensation and by the haste which many other duties necessitated. We refer, for example, to the rather heavy and frequently involved English style; to the use of German technical words, as "control" and "controllable;" to the insufficient explanation of some of the claims of the critics, which partially robs the volume of its great value for those who are not somewhat conversant with the subject. We sincerely trust that many editions of the book will be demanded, and that thus such minor faults may be corrected. A good general index and one of Scripture passages close the discussion.

Explanation of the Church Book. For the Use of Luther Leagues. Three issues per year. Sample copy, 2 cents. Annual subscription, 10 cents; in quantities, 5 cents; per 100, $3.75. Orders to G. A. Bruegel, Phillipsburg, N. J.

This is the first part of a systematic study of the General Council's Church Book, and has been published at the request of the Central Luther League of the Allentown district.

Luther's Complete Works in English. Psalms, Vol. I. Commentary on the First Eight Psalms. Edited by John N. Lenker, D.D. Pp. 446. Silk cloth, $2.25. Lutherans in All Lands Company, P. O. Box 253, Minneapolis.

It is a brave undertaking of Dr. Lenker's to propose the publication in the English language of Luther's complete works. Yet this is herewith begun, and we much wish the movement abundant success. Subscribers are asked for the entire series, 13 volumes of which are to be issued now as quickly as consistent preparation will allow. The prices will range between $1.50 and $2.50 per volume. The 13 volumes may be subscribed for at $19.50. In this first volume we have a revision of Dr. Henry Cole's original translation from the Latin; smooth English is the very general result. Luther delighted in the Psalms, and gave to their explanation much deep thought. We await with interest the result of Dr. Lenker's proposition to American Lutherans. The volume is in excellent publication form.

Rex Christus. An Outline Study of China. By Arthur H. Smith. Pp. 256. Paper, 50 cents. The Macmillan Co., 66 Fifth avenue, New York.

The world's interest in the events of China and in the problematical destiny of that kingdom makes this book very welcome, especially coming from one who by years' experience and true understanding can write with such discernment and interest. Although the book is missionary in its purpose, the ground covered is much wider. A view is given of the history and situation of the country, its religions and their influence, its people and their traits, the missionary work accomplished and the prospects. Nowhere have we seen so just and clear an account of the recent "Boxer" troubles.

Preface to St. Paul's Epistle to the Romans. By Dr. Martin Luther. Translated by Rev. C. E. Hay, D.D. 10 cents; $1 per doz. Lutheran Publication Society, Philadelphia.

No commendation is needed for this gem from Luther's writings. We can be happy to have a translation thereof in English by Dr. Hay.

Protestantischer Nachruf zum Gedachtniss Papst Leos XIII. Von Prof. A. L. Gräbner. Pp. 22. 5 cents. Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis.

Now that the overwrought emotionalism following upon the death of Pope Leo is subsiding, and people are coming to their senses, it would be well to read here the extracts from the recent Pope's official communications, in order that we may see what a friend (!) we Americans and Protestants have lost. One who condemns so heartily and bitterly

all modern liberty (of conscience, press and speech), who has such invective against the mighty Reformation, who decries the separation of Church and State, who considers every marriage not performed by a Roman Catholic priest as a sort of legalized adultery—this is the man revealed to us by his own statements; perhaps the laments of some will now cease. Let this pamphlet be translated into English also.

UNDER TWO CAPTAINS. By Prof. Sadtler. $1. Lutheran Publication Society, 1424 Arch street, Philadelphia.

This is the life-story of John Jacob Lehmanowsky: "Colonel Lehmanowsky was, indeed, a remarkable character. Dr. Sadtler portrays him in a most interesting and graphic manner. In the former half of the book the captain under whom Lehmanowsky serves is Napoleon. In the latter half the captain is Jesus Christ. In the former the hero is a soldier of the armies of France, in the latter a soldier of the Cross. Under the former captain he held the office of a Colonel, under the latter the office of a Lutheran minister. The discussion of war and its dread consequences is suggestive and serious, and furnishes timely food for thought. The exposure of the devilish inquisition in Spain is graphic, telling and convincing. The reading of 'Under Two Captains' might strengthen the backbone of some pseudo-Protestants. In all these stirring and far-reaching scenes our hero, Lehmanowsky, plays an important part. Amid all hardness and danger and dissipation and distress he never loses his faith in God, is always loyal to His higher Captain and true to his inner conviction. A right spiritual hero amid rapine and carnage and blood. It will be wholesome reading for any young man who excuses himself that he cannot be a consistent Christian because of his environment."

INTO ALL THE WORLD. By Amos R. Wells. Pp. 231; cloth, 50 cents; paper, 35 cents. United Society of Christian Endeavor, Boston and Chicago.

This is a "first-book of foreign missions." It is a popular, comprehensive introduction to the subject. In a bright, chatty, anecdotal, rememberable way, it aims to set forth all the facts about foreign missions which an ordinarily well-informed Christian is likely to need. All the leading missionary biographies are briskly summarized. There is a remarkable collection of portraits, 62 in all. There are eight unique maps, indicating plainly where each famous missionary worked and where each American denomination is laboring. The book is exceptional in dealing fully with American missions. There is a list of 200 reference books easily obtainable. There are many test questions on each country, with essay subjects and themes for further study, together with detailed suggestions for class-work on each chapter. There is an elaborate index. The reader will have a clear knowledge of the course of missionary history, the character and work of the leading missionaries of all nations, and the present condition of missions on all foreign fields.

PRINCELY MEN IN THE HEAVENLY KINGDOM. By Harlan P. Beach, M.A., F.R.G.S. Pp. 244. Cloth. 50 cents; paper, 35 cents. United Society of Christian Endeavor, Boston and Chicago.

This new number of the "Forward Mission Study Courses" contains brief and interesting biographies of men who have been notable in the missionary enterprises in connection with China. Morrison, Mackenzie, Gilmour, Nevins and Mackay are thus portrayed. A closing chapter is devoted to "Princely Martyrs of China's Spiritual Renaissance," giving a vivid account of the martyrdoms in the recent "Boxer" uprising. The author himself, previously a missionary to China and now noted as a student of general missionary endeavor, writes in a most entertaining manner. A dozen illustrations, a well-selected list of references to books, suggestions for class organization and leadership, questions and hints on the chapters, and a fine map of China render the book very useful for class work.

ECCLESIOLOGIA. I. The Doctrine of the Church. Outline Notes, Based on Luthardt and Krauth. By Revere F. Weidner, D.D., LL.D. Pp. 120. Fleming H. Revell Co., Chicago, New York and Toronto.

One more volume from this prolific writer. In a series of hand books, to cover the entire field of Dogmatics, this forms a part. Dividing the dogmatic field into six divisions we have in Ecclesiologia one thereof. This volume contributes a large amount of the matter for that division. The questions of the Church's history, divisions, polity, etc., are discussed in outline. Previous volumes in the series have already appeared.

AN UNPUBLISHED ESSAY OF EDWARDS ON THE TRINITY. With Remarks on Edwards and His Theology. By George P. Fisher, D.D., LL.D. Pp. 142. Charles Scribner's Sons, New York.

The appearance of this volume is opportune, in that the two hundredth anniversary of Edwards' birth occurred in October. Professor Fisher's appreciation of the man and his theology offers an excellent insight of the man's traits, character and thought. The essay on the Trinity is published to dispel the frequently asserted unorthodoxy of Edwards upon that doctrine.

Perhaps special classes in literature, in shorthand, in drawing, in music could be provided for the young people of the Church; under the auspices of the League.

Luther League Topics

New Year. January 3.

The Law Fulfilled

(Rom. iii : 20-31)

Biblical Topic Reviewed by Rev. C. Armand Miller

Questions to be answered in brief papers: How did Christ fulfil the Law? Why did Christ fulfil the Law? Of what use is the Law to us Christians?

Lessons for our own lives: 1. *It is a good thing to have a perfect example.* When you would teach a child to write, you do not set before him anything else than perfectly formed letters for him to imitate. No man gives us a perfect copy of what human life ought to be, but the man Christ Jesus. Even Paul, and the Apostles, are to be followed, only "as (they) followed Christ." Adam, for a while lived as man, was intended to live, but when he had fallen, the world remained for all the centuries until Jesus came, without an example of a true, holy man. All those called holy, the best of them, were so only relatively. We would not know ideal manhood, unless Christ had fulfilled the law, an example for us.

Life, also, is more easily understood, than precept. The Law, as such, may seem too abstract, too theoretical, to touch us closely, or to grip us forcibly. But if the precepts of the Law seem to be remote from us, and we, like the Pharisee, would rather measure ourselves by "other men," we have the Law, concrete, incarnate, interpreted in flesh and blood, instead of in pale words, in the living Person of the Lord Jesus Christ. If you would use "other men" as a standard, take *this* man, and see whether you are of His stature, lay your life upon His life, as the Pattern, and see where you come short!

In this way, perhaps more than in any other, do we learn the second use of the Law, its convicting power. You may read the commands of the Law, and not feel yourself so deeply convicted, but when you read the living of the Law, in the daily walk of Jesus Christ, and ask yourself whether you have kept the Law, as He kept it, you are driven to your knees with the almost despairing conviction that your sins are as scarlet. The preaching of Christ, Who is the Gospel, may also prove to be the truest and most keen preaching of the Law. If His perfect life brings, by contrast with ours, the deepest conviction of our sinfulness, so His atoning death, for our sins, on the cross, gives the strongest evidence of God's hatred of sin, of its fearful penalty, of its hideousness and awfulness! And so, we are driven, by the sight of the example of Christ, in fulfilling the Law, to cling and cleave to Him, as the One whose fulfilment of the Law was not only an example, but Who took our place, lived the perfect life, *for us*, and paid our penalty, to the uttermost farthing.

First Week after Epiphany. Jan. 10.

The Leipzig Missionary Society

(Acts x : 1-33)

Missionary Topic reviewed by Rev. Prof. Wm. Wackernagel, D.D.

The readers of the REVIEW are acquainted with the history of the beginning of Lutheran mission work in India in A. D. 1706. The "Danish-Halle Mission" does not exist any more under that title, but its work was continued by the Leipzig Missionary Society, which is recognized by the other Protestant societies missionating in India as the lawful heir of the Danish-Halle Mission, which, in fact, is the parent of all Protestant missions in that sunny land.

An "Evangelical Lutheran Missionary Society" was organized at Dresden, the capital of Saxony, in 1819. It stood in friendly relations with the Evangelical Missionary Society founded by Wuertemberg Lutherans and Swiss Reformed at Basel on the Rhine in 1815. The Saxon Lutherans opened a seminary for the training of mission workers at Dresden in 1832, and in August, 1836, adopted a constitution with the name and title of "The Evangelical Lutheran Mission of Leipzig." The first graduates of the seminary were sent to South Australia (1838), and to the Northwest of the United States, where they labored among the Indians in Michigan (1847-1868). Providential circumstances directed their eyes and thoughts to Tamil Land in Western South India as the proper field of labor, which was in danger of being annexed altogether by British societies. In March, 1841, Missionary Cordes arrived at Tranquebar, to explore the field. He became the chaplain of the Danish militia, and thus had very good opportunity to learn to know the Tamils, their country, their language, their ways of thinking and talking. Tranquebar was sold to Great Britain in 1845. The Danish chaplain went home, but Mr. Cordes remained. In 1847 the Danish Mission Board at Copenhagen transferred its field in India to the Leipzig So-

The Luther League Topics, complete lessons (of which the above are outlines and reviews), in 32-page pamphlet, covering three months, can be supplied at rates given on page 31 by LUTHER LEAGUE REVIEW, Box 876, New York, N. Y.

ciety. It consisted of the Tamil Lutheran congregations at Tranquebar and Poreyar, with 1600 members and 14 schools numbering 600 pupils. Within the next few years three other former congregations came back to the Lutheran Church. The society since 1844—and until 1860—was favored by the Lord with an excellent superintendent, Dr. Graul, a man full of energy and wisdom. He made Leipzig the center of Lutheran efforts and activity, inviting and securing the sympathy and liberality of the Lutherans in Bavaria, Hanover, Mecklenburg, Sweden and the Baltic Provinces. The seminary was moved to Leipzig and reorganized, the aim being to send out men of high culture. A very efficient theologian, Dr. Hardeland, was principal of the seminary from 1860 to 1891. The Board of Directors numbers 12 members, three of whom are university professors, two are pastors, two are justices in the Supreme Court of Germany, one is a banker, another one is a publisher, and three have salaried positions in the management of the society's interests at home and abroad. The annual meeting takes place in the week after Pentecost, and is always largely attended, the branch societies sending competent delegates who take part in the discussions. The annual income at present amounts to $140,000, of which amount $4400 is interest (3 to 4 per cent.) on endowment funds. The property at Leipzig is valued at $45,000, and that in India is very considerable. The Leipzig mission, as far as human conditions are concerned, is standing on solid ground. The Rev. Dr. von Schwartz is the present superintendent of the mission. He spent a year on a tour of inspection in India, and at this writing is on his way to East Africa on a similar errand. Dr. Hoelscher, vice-president of the board, recently went to India to consult with the missionaries on some serious questions. Dr. Hoelscher is said to combine in his person the powers of such great men as Ahlfeld and Luthardt, who both were on the Board of the Leipzig mission.

The annual report published in June, 1903, informs us that there were 47 Europeans and 28 Tamils on the society's funds as missionaries in India. The 28 Tamils were ordained ministers and pastors of native congregations. Of the 47 Europeans seven were Swedes, who are working together in and about Maduea, in South Tamil Land. Of 30 Germans 24 are ordained ministers, three are deaconesses, one is a teacher, one an architect and one a printer. Ten are on furlough at home.

Ten ordained missionaries work among the Wakamba, in British East Africa, and 13 ordained men, one physician and two master mechanics among the Wadjagga, in German East Africa, on the hills around the mighty Kilima Njarro, the highest mountain in Africa. Two worn-out missionaries and ten widows of missionaries are on the pension fund of the society.

The Leipzig Society has 38 stations in the land of the Tamils, one in Ceylon for the benefit of the Lutherans among the thousands of Tamils working in the coffee and tea plantations on that wonderful island, and one at Rangoon, the great commercial port of Burmah, where Tamils have found paying work. With these 40 stations 770 towns and villages are connected, to whose inhabitants 215 places of worship are open. Twenty-two thousand Tamils belong to the Leipzig mission; the congregations own invested funds to the amount of $22,500. There are 266 schools supported and controlled by the mission, including the theological and pedagogical seminary at Tranquebar, a high school and a manual training school; 403 male and 105 female teachers are employed to instruct 6400 male and 2350 female pupils; 500 male and 230 female scholars are found in the boarding schools.

The figures of the East African field where labor was started ten years ago are yet small, but the faithful and intelligent work of the devoted missionaries begins to tell. The Wadjaggaand Wakamba missionaries are creating a native literature by translating the Scripture, the catechism, hymns, etc. The printing house of the Leipzig Mission at Tranquebar has published a large number of first-class books in Tamil, which language has a rich ancient literature. It is publishing tracts and leaflets for distribution, and a monthly paper edited by a native pastor. The society has an organ of its own in a monthly missionary paper. A children's paper has a large circulation. Tracts are published from time to time, and books are written by missionaries occasionally. The Leipzig Mission is sometimes called a "model society," which honorable title is certainly not undeserved.

On the 11th day of last October there died at Hanover Dr. Julius Hardeland, who had been the superintendent of the Leipzig Mission from 1860 to 1891. He was in very deed and truth "a consecrated worker," a man to whom the Lord had given much, and who by diligent use of his gifts had increased the activity, influence and income more than threefold. Moreover, he was a personification of genuine Lutheranism, and therefore, with all his energy, a very con-

servative, cautious man. In one of his letters to the editor of the *Missionsblatt*, he said with peculiar force: "The sign of our times is impatience and haste. Therefore let us heed Heb. 10:36, 'Ye have need of patience, that after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise.'"

Second Week after Epiphany. Jan. 7.

The Gospel Proclaimed

(Luke iv: 14-21)

Biblical Topic Reviewed by Rev. C. Armand Miller

Questions to be answered in brief papers: What is the Gospel? How is it to be preached? To whom is it to be preached? What were the features of Christ's preaching of the Gospel?

Lessons for our own lives: 1. *The Gospel is for the needy.* The poor, the brokenhearted, the captives, the blind, the bruised—these are the ones to whom Christ was sent to preach. The preaching of the Gospel to these, and to such, is the evidence of the impulse of the Holy Spirit, and the manifestation of the Christly life. Let others care for the great and the rich and the self-judged righteous, God, and His Church will and must see to it, that the needy are supplied with the richest of all gifts, the comfort and grace that bring healing and peace! A church that does not seek out the needy, and provide what they need, a Christian who does not do this work—these are impostors, and to them Christ will say, one day: "I never knew you."

The Gospel is for me. For I am needy. All that your soul, and mine, lacks is supplied from this unfailing spring. If we "say that we have no sin" and no need, the Gospel is not for us. The Pharisee who had no petition in his prayer, and thought he had no want of any virtue, was not the one who went down to his house justified. When Jesus seemed to turn away the Syro-Phœnician woman with the harsh word, "it is not meet to take the children's bread and cast it to the little pet dogs" of the household, it depended on the place she was willing to take, what the Syro-Phœnician woman's share would be. She took the lowest place, felt and acknowledged her need, and claimed the crumbs that were the dogs' portion. But the portion she received was that of a child! God forbid that we should deny or be ignorant of our need.

2. *Preaching is a mighty work.* If our age thinks differently, so much the worse for our age! In the eighteenth and nineteenth verses of our lesson, the word "preach" is used three times, to define the purpose of the mission of Christ, and in the whole lesson the thought of preaching is predominant. If preaching were not a mighty work, full of power and blessing, Christ would not have given so much of His time and strength to it when He was here. If preaching were not a mighty work, no such results as are ascribed to it in this passage would be possible—"deliverance," "recovering of sight," the giving of the Gospel. God's Word is powerful! Beware lest we be of those to whom preaching is foolishness.

Third Week after Epiphany. Jan. 24.

Mission Methods

Home Missionary Topic Reviewed by Rev. George H. Trabert, D.D., Minneapolis

These differ of necessity because of conditions and circumstances. The methods employed to gather a congregation in the home mission field could hardly, except to a very limited extent, be employed in the foreign field. There you have to deal with heathen who know nothing of the rudiments of Christianity, while here you have to do with Christians, perhaps only nominal, or at least with those who have been in touch with Christianity. But even in the home field methods differ, although the principle is the same, the salvation of souls.

Beginnings.—Suppose a missionary is sent to start English work in a Western city where there is no other Lutheran Church using the English language. There may be one or more Lutheran congregations worshiping in one or more foreign languages. The missionary is an entire stranger, knows no one, and has at first no point of vantage from which he can carry on the work. As a matter of courtesy, he calls on the Lutheran pastors, especially on such as may be connected with the general body to which the missionary belongs, or who may affiliate with it. The reception may be cordial or cool according to the disposition of the individua or the sympathy or lack of it with Englis work. If it is possible, the first service is held in a Lutheran Church, which calls especial attention of Lutherans to the proposed work, which is to teach the faith of the fathers in the language of the children. In the majority of cases in the smaller cities, such missionary finds no doors open to him, except those of halls that he may rent at exorbitant prices.

On the other hand, when the missionary is to organize a church among his own nationality, using their own language exclusively, the methods are very different and the problem much simpler. In every case, if the missionary finds some persons who are interested in the establishment of a Lutheran Church it will materially help the begin-

ning. The missionary makes good use of printer's ink; the newspapers are always ready to publish news, and will call attention to any new enterprise if they are properly approached. Sometimes he has dodgers or posters printed and freely distributed or put up in conspicuous places, calling attention to the first service. It may (and generally does) happen that the first service is a disappointment because of the small attendance. The success of an enterprise does not depend upon great numbers. If there are only a few, the missionary can form the acquaintance of those few, and having a good nucleus, the success of the work cannot fail if it is judiciously carried forward. It must always be understood that it is the Lord's work; that the prime motive is the salvation of souls, the upbuilding of God's kingdom; that the missionary is a man of faith and earnest prayer; that God will surely give His blessing.

When there is a knowledge of a number of families who really desire the establishment of a congregation, the beginning is comparatively easy. But even then the missionary must often exercise great self-denial, and be ready to do what should not be required of a minister of the Gospel—*e. g.*, it is not of uncommon occurrence that for some time the missionary must not only manage the financial part of the work, but even be the janitor and prepare the place for worship in which the services are to be held!

Lutheran Material.—It is often supposed that a Lutheran mission is only for Lutherans, who would otherwise go astray. This is a great mistake. Of course, the straying Lutherans should first be looked after, but here care must be taken that the rights of other Lutheran congregations be not invaded. Members of other Lutheran congregations in the same city should not be received except by letter, and not at all if under discipline, until the ban is removed. Ministerial and congregational courtesy should not be lacking, and the rights of others must be respected. But there is an immense field outside of our own Church. There are thousands who are like sheep going astray whom we should endeavor to save. If the older ones are beyond our reach, their children may be gathered into the Sunday school and so into the fold of Christ. In beginning mission work a Sunday school should at once be started, and a strong effort made to interest as many as possible in it. Many a congregation has grown out of a Sunday school. This brings us to

Organization.—It may be weeks and even months before a congregation can be organized; but frequently a number of young people are gathered into a catechetical class and prepared for confirmation, which gives encouragement to the work. The wise missionary effects an organization as soon as possible after he has secured a small number of the right kind of persons for office and for the fixing of the type of the congregation. This gives the work prestige and a legal form. It is of the greatest importance that the work be placed on a purely Lutheran foundation from the very start. The true Lutheran Home Missionary lets the trumpet give forth no uncertain sound. Sound Lutheran usage, the full Common Service characterizes the beginning of every such mission. Our successful missionary using the English language conforms to the old Lutheran usages in use among the churches of his community worshiping in other tongues. This conformity aids in removing prejudice, and shows to the people the oneness of the Church whatever the language.

Benevolence.—Our missionary of every nationality lets the people understand from the beginning that, while the Gospel is free for all, it is necessary to support it by contributing according to their means. This is one of the most difficult phases of missionary work, and yet of immense importance. Let every Luther Leaguer who reads this paragraph remember that if he is ever elected deacon, especially in a mission, that his is a great responsibility to teach and labor with his fellow members on this matter of giving as God has prospered them, toward the support of their own church.

The Church at large expects her missionaries to train the mission congregations, from their beginnings, to contribute to all of the "Boards" of the Church, to all objects of general beneficence. Our people should all know and feel that the cause of the Church in all its departments is theirs, that all, poor and rich, have an equal interest, and that all should do their part according to the ability and the grace God gives.

Pray Large Prayers

Pray the largest prayers. Pray not for crutches, but for wings. Oh, do not pray just that God keep you from breaking down, and somehow, anyhow, help you to stagger and stumble through; pray for his light and life to come and fill you, that you may live like Him; that you may tread temptation under foot, and walk across it into holiness; that you may be enthusiastically good; that you may shine forth with His light on other lives. —Phillips Brooks.

From the Pacific to the Atlantic

The General Secretary's Long Trip

THIS has been a season of conventions. In consequence of the great amount of work devolving upon the General Secretary, and the large number of visitations he has been able to make, it is possible only to mention a few of the features of the more important meetings since his last report.

After the Illinois convention the General Secretary started for the convention of the Columbia Central Luther League at The Dalles, Oregon. From Chicago to The Dalles is 2200 miles, but the splendid overland service of the Union Pacific made the long trip enjoyable. We arrived at The Dalles in time for the first session of the convention. The reports of the various committees showed much hard work had been done. The earnestness of the delegates presages great things for the future. Considerable time was necessarily taken up in discussing the constitution and arranging for the work of the year. All parts of the well prepared programme were carried out, and the papers and addresses were fine. The pastor, Rev. Wm. Brenner, and the members of the Luther League of Zion's Church at The Dalles were most hospitable in their entertainment of the convention.

COLUMBIA DISTRICT CONVENTION, THE DALLES, OREGON

Rallies were held at Tacoma in the Swedish Lutheran Church, in charge of the pastor, Rev. C. E. Frisk, and Rev. C. F. W. Stoever, at Seattle, in the Swedish Lutheran Church, Rev. M. L. Larson, pastor, and presided over by Rev. H. A. W. Yung; and at Whatcom in the United Norwegian Church, Rev. E. A. Eriksen, pastor, where there is a society of 70 members, besides the work of Rev. Theo. Schoenberg in the mission of the General Council. A Sunday morning was spent with Rev. W. F. Holl, Vancouver, Wash., who is building a pretty frame church. Beside the encouragement of the deep interest of the pastor of this church in the work of the Luther League the young people of this congregation have the assistance of Mr. W. S. T. Derr, president of the Columbia Central Luther League. The rally of Portland young Lutherans in Immanuel Swedish Lutheran Church, Rev. John H. Skans, pastor, was notable as possibly the largest gathering of Lutherans ever held in that city, and as bringing together pastors of so many different Synods as well as representatives of so many different congregations. To many this was a revelation of our strength.

The reception of the General Secretary at Norristown during the meeting of the General Council was most cordial and fraternal. His kindly presentation by the retiring president, the Rev. Dr. M. C. Ranseen, of Chicago, to President Schmauk, and Dr. Schmauk's gracious introduction of the Secretary to that distinguished body of Lutherans, is gratefully acknowledged.

The great conventions of the year were Pennsylvania, New York and New Jersey. The attendance at the Pennsylvania convention at Reading was exceptionally large, the largest in its history and in keeping with her

splendid membership of 18,553. The reports of the officers and committees were very complete, and the Press Committee had done a magnificent work. The papers and addresses were all carefully prepared. Special features of the convention were the scholarly address of welcome by Judge G. A. Eudlich, LL.D., and the formal reception of Mr. R. Raymond Bard to meet the officers of the Luther League of Pennsylvania. The feature of the tenth convention of the Luther League of New York State in St. James' Church, Rev. J. B. Remensnyder, D.D., pastor, and in St. Paul's Church, Rev. J. A. W. Haas, D.D., pastor, was the model devotional meeting led by Mr. C. A. Schnepel, with introductory remarks by Rev. M. J. Bieber, and closing remarks by Rev. C. Armand Miller. The work in New York is well systematized. Nevertheless, the map prepared and the plan presented by the Extension Committee proposed an even more complete districting of the State for aggressive work. The Luther League of the metropolis is an ideal host. It would be difficult to imagine more perfect arrangements for the entertainment of a convention. The cordial Christian fellowship of the Luther Leagues of New York is worthy of commendation. Though not so large as the conventions of New York and Pennsylvania, the eighth annual convention of the Luther League of New Jersey was full of interest. This convention was held in the Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Holy Trinity, Elizabeth, Rev. Fr. C. Krapf, pastor. The attendance was large, and the delegates were enthusiastic. New Jersey has an active Extension Committee. In the matter of finances this State has adopted the apportionment plan. It is working quite well. Encouraging growth was reported for the year.

All three of these conventions adopted important resolutions relative to the Luther League work. They have appeared in the reports of these conventions in the REVIEW. One thing common to all these conventions was the relegating of business to the proper committees, so that ample time was allowed for the fullest and freest discussion of the topics of the programme. The programmes were not burdened with subjects for discussion, so often necessitating rush and extension of time in order that nothing might be omitted. An excellent result of this arrangement was, it left time before and after the sessions of the conventions for the delegates to become acquainted with each other. The subjects selected for discussion at these conventions showed an advance step had been taken over the much used topics of the aims, the motive and work of the Luther League. After ten years' discussion these were assumed as settled, and the committees in charge of the programmes turned attention to the practical work in the Church for our young people. The lively participation of the delegates in the general discussion of the papers was a hopeful sign of growing interest in practical Christian service.

After these conventions we attended the "District Night" of the Luther League at Rondout, Rev. W. F. Bacher, pastor, when they entertained the Leagues of the Rhinebeck District. The twelfth annual convention of the Luther League of the Albany District in St. James' Church, Gloversville, Rev. John J. Dominic, pastor, the fine rallies at Troy, Rev. N. E. Yeiser, pastor, and Rochester, Rev. Frank F. Fry, pastor, were evidences of the earnestness of our young people and their growing interest in the Luther League work. The grand rally of Lutherans, on Luther's birthday, under the auspices of the Philadelphia Central Luther League at St. Luke's Church, Rev. Chas. L. Fry, pastor, was the largest gathering of Lutherans in Philadelphia it ever was the General Secretary's privilege to see. Echoes from the State convention was the keynote printed on the programme. Each delegate presented a written report of one of the sessions of the State convention. In addition addresses were delivered by Revs. Edwin Heyl Delk, George C. Loos and Mr. W. C. Stoever. The Lutheran Choral Union furnished two splendid numbers of the programme, "Like as the Hart," Palestrina, and Warren's "Te Deum."

Hamlet, with Hamlet Left Out!

By Rev. Charles L. Fry

THE Luther Leaguers of New York, Pennsylvania and New Jersey, who were not able to attend their recent excellent State conventions, and all the other Leaguers in the United States who were watching with interest the doings of these three latest conventions, to get inspiration and suggestion, have entirely missed the chief things done by each and all of these conventions alike, if they depended on the reports prepared for publication in these columns. The case is one of Hamlet, with "Hamlet" left out.

First in importance among the substantial

doings in Reading, in New York and in Elizabeth (for there was an entire unison of action which augurs most hopefully for the National Convention in 1904) must be mentioned the providing for the General Secretary's salary, by asking each Central to be responsible for paying into the National treasury an amount equal to $1 for each individual League in its membership. This is surely a modest sum, and the Leagues will cheerfully contribute it, if the Central will but faithfully take this important matter into their care. Each League will also take a heartier, personal interest in the General Secretary's work, if it be a partner in the plan of his support, to any extent however small. He then becomes in a very real sense, as only thus he can, that League's own representative in the doing of the great work. Hence the plan is even more of a help to the League itself than it is to him. Then great stress must be laid on the enthusiastic, unanimous sentiment that both the REVIEW and the Topics have been steadily growing in value all the time, and have become absolutely indispensable to the Luther Leaguers of America. But here is the main point, which was left out in the reports: To quadruple their circulation, which can easily be done, and with incalculable profit to the cause, the plan adopted was to ask the publication office to send to each Central "an exact list of the subscribers" in that particular Central, *to be publicly read* at its next convention, in deserved recognition of those Leagues which are doing their duty in this respect, and as a stimulus to others to do better.

Thirdly, the work of Lutheran Deaconesses in America, and the whole Inner Mission movement so far as this country is concerned, were recognized as being the very key-word of our young people's practical efficiency in the twentieth century. Just to the extent that our energies shall be expended along these lines of Inner Mission work, and not in mere speech-making at various conventions, precisely to that extent will the Luther League movement prove a success or failure. Every department of both Home and Foreign Missions will feel the quickening impulse of this zeal in direct, hand-to-hand service, right in our own town and among our own associates, as well as among the friendless and the outcast. Here is the exact verbiage of the first part of this action:

Resolved, That we recognize the Deaconess work, restored to modern Christendom by Theodore Fliedner, as making possible to consecrated women the devoting of their entire lives to this Christ-like ministry of mercy, and that this noble life vocation be specially commended to suitable young women in all our Leagues, for whom every Motherhouse in this land is today importunately calling.

Other resolutions, adopted without a single dissenting voice, which will prove suggestive to every State League in the Union, in more efficient discharge of its business details, are as follows:

Resolved, That our corresponding secretary shall hereafter send to the secretary of each Central a complete list of such items as the State Convention shall adopt concerning Centrals and Locals, requesting that a copy be forwarded by the Central to each Local in its membership. This shall include a copy of the report made to the State Convention by its statistical secretary concerning that particular Central and its Local Leagues, as an incentive that each shall make full reports and do better work.

Resolved, That our corresponding secretary shall endeavor to secure a list of societies not connected with any Central, and earnestly invite such independent Leagues to unite with a Central, or, if there be a sufficient number, to form a Central of their own. And in the meantime to make report of their officers and membership, so that our statistics may more accurately represent the strength of the State League.

Resolved, That all Centrals be urged to make a careful canvas of their respective fields, to bring every eligible Lutheran Young People's Society into affiliation with the Central, and to effect the organization of a Luther League in every Lutheran congregation where none exists. The Central which makes the best record in this respect shall receive special public recognition at each State Convention.

Resolved, That for the purpose of correspondence, and more systematic and effective work, the State shall be divided into sectional Districts, each comprising several contiguous counties. And that the Extension Committee consist of a general chairman and one member from each of these Districts, who shall superintend the work in his District, and report to the chairman.

Resolved, That we commend to the Luther League of America the adoption of a plan to increase the interest of our people in the instructive Reading Courses by public conferring of an Honorary Degree (after written examination), with a corresponding diploma, as a conspicuous feature of the Final Rally at each National Convention.

This last resolution was meant to be simply received and referred to each Central for discussion, so that the general sentiment may be ascertained before our National Convention. For this purpose it is here submitted to every Central in print.

OUR WORK.—In the last census year it was reported that 1,039,094 of the people of the United States passed away in death. That represents 2846 per day, 118 per hour and one every half minute! How many of them fell asleep in Jesus? And what are we doing to bring Jesus to a dying world?

Luther League Review

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ISSUED MONTHLY BY THE

LUTHER LEAGUE OF AMERICA

IN THE INTERESTS OF

The Lutheran Church and her Young People.

Edited by E. F. Eilert,

WITH

W. C. STOEVER, PHILADELPHIA, PA. S. G. WEISKOTTEN, BROOKLYN, N. Y.

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Editorial

The happy Christmas comes once more,
The heavenly Guest is at the door,
The blessed words the shepherds thrill,
The joyous tidings: Peace, good-will.

O, holy Child, Thy manger gleams
Till earth and heaven glow with its beams;
Till midnight noon's bright light has won,
And Jacob's Star outshines the sun.

With the coming of Christmas let us make more room for Christ in our lives. We make room and even more room for worldly pleasures. We make room for worldly success. We make room for our ambitions. We make room for self. The Christmas tide calls to us, "Make room for the Christ Child."

Christmas calls us to love and good will. To think kind thoughts of our worst enemy, in the spirit of good will to wish him well, this is the call of Christmas Day. Oh, let us pray for power to love more and to bless more.

With Christ born anew in our hearts on Christmas Day what a new light must shine forth from all our life, glorifying thought and word and deed. What a new beauty it adds, what a new quality which makes life infinitely richer, filling it with abiding music.

Come, Jesus, glorious heavenly Guest,
Keep Thine own Christmas in our breast;
Then David's harp-strings, hushed so long,
Shall swell our jubilee of song.

After all, the great thought of Christmas is that of *giving*. The receiving of gifts is only an incident in connection with the love that prompts the giving.

It is a blessed privilege to be the prudent almoners and distributors of others' bounty, but it is still more blessed to bestow, be it ever so small, a gift that is a donation by the sacrifice of what we ourselves have hoped to possess, enjoy or use.

The day of all the year and the religion of Christ, ushered in by the Advent and Birthday of Jesus that are most favorable for the child, once more are presented to our contemplation. It is an epoch of joy!

The girdle of joy does not need the 80 days of Jules Verne's famous traveler, in order to circle the great world; nor even the two score of minutes of which *Puck* tells, nor even the nine telegraphic minutes of President Roosevelt's well-known message. It is the great broad hand of God's love that gave to all the world the Saviour, Christ the Lord.

The light of Christmas time is like a vast aurora of the wintry North.

The circle is constructed of the touching hearts of little children, through which is passing a current more marvelous than the wireless telegraphy of Marconi—the current of the Divine and Infinite Love. It is given off in the sparkle of every radiant eye and reflected in the sheen of every pretty candle and trinket, toy, aye, every bit of glitter and grace in the tinsel and laurel that grace the tree and the home. Even the glow of the warm coal fire teaches the luxury of doing good. The Christmas girdle is garlanded with its interwoven arms of the children of God of all nations, ages and climes.

Let us rejoice the hearts of others if we can, for contact with doleful folks makes others doleful. There is in the far off South Seas a group of islands called the Seven Sisters, where rains are almost constantly falling. And it may be that the meetings of gloomy, clouded spirits, by the continual outpour of complaints, criticisms, sorrows, murmurs and contentions, put out the fire of all zeal, and even quench the Holy Spirit of devotion.

True Christianity is not like the artistic "graining" done by the painter on the surface of the door, and very ingeniously put on, to make things "look well." It is the "natural wood" of the regenerated man and part of the very fiber of his new spiritual life.

Definite work is required; work in which each individual is engaged. Let our Leagues during this winter select some special object to which attention, earnest and concerted shall be given. Above all things, our own congregation should receive the first consideration and the first and best effort. Some are looking for large work to do, while the Lord may have some humble act for us to perform. "Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with Thy might." "Seek and ye shall find" what the Lord desires you to do.

A body of laymen who take a deep and self-denying interest in the welfare of the whole Lutheran Church is needed. More and more we are developing such a body of men, and the work which the Luther League does to this end is one of the most important and far-reaching of its activities.

In all our work we need to keep before us very clearly the fact of a personal responsibility. It will not excuse us to shrug our shoulders, and say: "It is not my fault," if the work of the Lord does not go forward as it ought. We are responsible. We will be called into judgment. When we recognize these facts we always become earnest workers for Christ. The shirkers are those who do not recognize their responsibility. The workers are those who keep steadily in mind the hour when the Lord will ask what we have done with our talent. Blessed the servant who has used it to the Master's glory.

Publishers' Column

To remind our friends that the "Luther League Badge" is just the thing for a Christmas gift for a relative, for a friend, or for a Sunday school scholar, we have issued an attractive little leaflet, giving prices and discounts for quantities on all styles of badges. The circular also gives the full meaning of the badge. These circulars can be had on request. So many of our members used the badge last year for a Christmas gift that we thought others might find it desirable to do the same thing; hence our little circular.

Remember, also, that we can supply the books of the Reading Course for those who may want them for their library or, possibly, for a Christmas gift. We are ready to ship the books promptly.

Luther League Topics for the December, January and February quarter were issued on the 15th, and the supply is being depleted very rapidly, although an increased edition was ordered. If you have not sent for your supply, do so at once.

The new edition of the Luther League Hymnal will be ready early this month. The book, with music, makes a very desirable present. You need not be ashamed of a book like this for a Christmas gift.

Address all orders to LUTHER LEAGUE REVIEW, P. O. Box 876, New York City.

Do You Use the Topics?

BY G. H. S., EDITOR.

The good news that came a few weeks ago that a second edition of last quarter's Topics had to be issued gladdens the heart of every intelligent Leaguer. When we consider the fact that there has been prejudice against the use of the Luther League Topics in several quarters, and that such opposition has been from different standpoints, it is gratifying to all of us that the circulation is so constantly increasing. The editor was glad to notice that in several State conventions the practical question of how to use the Topics was fully and freely discussed. It was a happy thought to conduct a model devotional service, as was done at one or two of these conventions. But improvement is the order of the day. We must not only be satisfied with our past progress, but should put forth every effort to improve our devotional meetings. Let our ambition be to make our devotional meetings the *very best* of any of the various types of such meetings in existence.

We have been having a goodly variety of subjects; some doctrinal, some practical, some historical, some missionary. The testimony of one Luther League may be taken as typical of many. It was this: "Your historical topics have been eye-openers to our members. We are just beginning to appreciate what grand work our Church has done throughout the years of her history." Another officer, writing concerning the missionary topics, said: "These missionary topics have enthused our League, and stirred our whole church on missions as never before, and our pastor will report this year much larger offerings than usual to the General Boards." From the testimony of many letters, it appears that the new departure of inserting historical and missionary topics into our scheme (first adopted at Cincinnati) has been very beneficial and the means of adding very largely to the circulation of the Topics.

Many of us have learned for the first time in our lives what other divisions of our Church are doing for the advancement of Christ's kingdom. But sometimes these subjects are difficult. Every Luther League should have the books of the Reading Course in its library. Then its members, when called upon to lead a meeting on an historical or missionary evening, will nearly always find ample material in one or more of those books for the preparation of interesting papers on the evening's subject. And then don't forget to go to your pastor for help, for his library should supply all deficiencies. In the historical topics the Luther League seeks to acquaint her members with the history of our own Church, a history so full of grand deeds, great sacrifices and splendid achievements that it ought to fire the heart of every young Lutheran to emulate the example of the forefathers. Next month we shall have something to say about the biblical topics.

For Special Terms on "Way of Salvation" for Luther Leagues, apply to the author, 1315 Waveland Ave., Chicago, Illinois.

Pennsylvania Railroad Company Will Issue Clerical Orders for 1904.

Pursuant to its usual custom, the Pennsylvania Railroad Company will issue clerical orders for the year 1904 to ordained clergymen having regular charge of churches located on or near its lines. Clergymen desiring such orders should make individual application for same on blanks furnished by the company through its agents. Applications should be sent to the General Office of the Company as soon as possible, in no case later than December 19, so that orders may be mailed by December 31 to all clergymen entitled to receive them.

Luther League Reading Courses.

Adopted by the Luther League of America.

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When any person has read the books of the first course, and so informs the Literary Secretary, he will receive, upon payment of the 20 cents fee, a Luther League Literary Certificate.

When he has read the books of any of the other courses, he will receive, without cost, a corresponding seal to the original certificate.

All inquiries concerning the courses should be addressed to the Literary Secretary, Rev. C. L. FRY, 1920 No. 7th St., Philadelphia, Pa.

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Have them all put in your S. S. Library.

Our Churches and Institutions

New York

— The corner-stone for the new St. Peter's German Lutheran Church, at Fifty-fourth street and Lexington avenue, was laid on Sunday, November 29. The exercises were by the pastors, Revs. E. F. Moldenke, D.D., and Alfred Moldenke, and by D. W. Peterson of the New York conference. The new church, when completed, will be 60 x 80 feet, with a steeple reaching 140 feet from the sidewalk. The style is modern Gothic, and there will be school and Sunday school room on the adjoining land. The cost will approximate $200,000.

Philadelphia

— The Philadelphia Sabbath Association will hold its anniversary in St. Luke's Church, Rev. Charles L. Fry, pastor, on one of the Sunday evenings in December. Its object is to save the Lord's Day from the desperate efforts of its enemies to overthrow it in this land, where it is the rock on which the stability of our Republic rests.

— By the will of Catherine A. Warner of Philadelphia the sum of $5000 is bequeathed to the Ministerium of Pennsylvania "to be used to aid needy, disabled or superannuated clergymen of the Lutheran Church, and to help needy widows and orphans of deceased Lutheran clergymen."

— Mrs. Reuben Hill of Philadelphia, widow of the late Rev. Dr. R. Hill, former pastor of St. John's Church, Allentown, died recently and in her will bequeathed $500 to the endowment fund of Muhlenberg College Library. She also gave many of the best books of her late husband to the library.

— The King's Daughters of St. Matthew's Lutheran Church, Rev. E. H. Delk, pastor, have presented to the Deaconess Motherhouse and Training School, Baltimore, a valuable set of the International Encyclopedia, in 17 handsomely bound volumes.

Chicago

— Another mission of the Chicago Synod is about to be begun on the West Side as the result of a canvass made under the direction of the Mission Director, Rev. Dr. Hunton. It will be located in a very populous district, full of Lutherans, and have its nearest English Lutheran neighbor three miles away.

— Rev. T. F. Dornblaser, D.D., assumed the duties of his new pastorate of Grace Church, Sunday, November 1, succeeding the late Rev. W. S. Hinman, D.D.

— Rev. S. M. Lutz has resigned as pastor of St. Andrew's Church. He intends to continue in mission work in Chicago, having undertaken to establish a new church in the delightful residence section known as Edgewater. Rev. S. H. Yerian has been elected as Rev. Lutz' successor, and began his work at St. Andrew's November 1.

Baltimore

— Rev. Chas. E. Hay, D.D., pastor of All Saints' Church, Philadelphia, has been elected pastor and executive head of the Lutheran Deaconess Motherhouse of the General Synod. Rev. F. P. Manhart, D.D., will continue to teach, and assumes the work formerly done by the local pastors of the city.

— The new and beautiful church at Catonsville, a suburb of Baltimore, which cost about $30,000, was dedicated on October 18. "It is very churchly and complete in all its appointments." The pastor is Rev. M. L. Enders, whose father, Rev. G. W. Enders, preached the sermon on the occasion.

Cleveland

— Rev. Albert L. Benze was installed as pastor of Holy Trinity Church by the Missionary Superintendent of the Pittsburgh Synod, Rev. Geo. Gongaware, on October 20. The old church property has been sold and a much more desirable location secured.

Minneapolis

— A new English Lutheran Church, to be known as Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church, was organized in Minneapolis on November 4, with 21 members. The congregation will unite with the Minnesota Conference of the Augustana Synod.

MISCELLANEOUS

— Greenland has 12,000 Lutherans who are Eskimos. An illustrated paper is published among them. The editor is publisher, printer, newsboy and manager. The subscription price is one seal for a year, two eider geese for three months, and a young wild duck for a single copy.

— Rev. H. W. McKnight, D.D., has been appointed a member of the State Board of Colleges and Universities by the Governor of Pennsylvania.

— Dr. Harpster writes from Rajahmundry, October 7: "We came home yesterday after a five weeks' trip among the villages of the delta. The trip involved immense physical effort on my part. It rained almost every day. I walked at least 100 miles, sometimes up to the knees in water, and occasionally to the armpits. It was a hard trip."

— A number of the District Synods of the General Synod, which have just held their annual sessions, complain of an unusually large number of vacancies. Of the 200 missions cared for by the Home Board 12 per cent. are vacant. Everywhere the call for more ministers is resounding.

— The corner-stone for the new St. Paul's Church at Allentown, Pa., was laid on November 1. Rev. Dr. Singmaster, a former pastor, and Rev. H. D. Newcomer, delivered addresses. The new church is to be an imposing Gothic edifice and will be "Lutheran in all its appointments."

— Three churches in the United Synod South have been burned within the past two months—the church at Beth Eden, Miss., Pilgrim Church, near Lexington, N. C., and the church at Norfolk, Va. All these losses fall heavily upon the congregations.

— Rev. H. H. Weber, D.D., general secretary of the Lutheran Board of Church Extension of the General Synod, has negotiated with Mr. M. S. Hershey for the donation of a lot for a Lutheran Church in the new town of Derry Church, near Harrisburg, which is growing up around Mr. Hershey's factory.

— Susquehanna University has fallen heir to $20,000 through the death of Mrs. Rosa Hill, widow of Rev. Dr. Reuben Hill.

— It is reported that the will of the late Rev. J. H. Stuckenburg, D.D., bequeathed $35,000 to Pennsylvania College, Gettysburg, Pa.

— Rev. Theodore Lorenzo Seip, D.D., president of Muhlenberg College since 1896, and connected with the institution as a professor since its foundation in 1867, died on Sunday, November 29, from apoplexy. He was born in Easton, Pa., in 1842, and was educated at Weaversville Academy and Pennsylvania College, Gettysburg. Dr. Seip was ordained a Lutheran clergyman in 1867, and came to Muhlenberg College at once as a professor and principal of the academy department. Governors Hastings, Stone and Pennypacker successively appointed him on the State University and College Council. He is survived by a widow, a son and a daughter.

— By the will of the late John B. Henry of Reading, Pa., the sum of $15,000 was donated to the following institutions: St. James' Lutheran Church, The Home for Friendless Children, The Home for Widows and Single Women and the Reading Hospital.

— *Our Church* paper says: "At least 100,000 people will move into Canada this year. Winnipeg has grown in a few years from 300 to 60,000 inhabitants. The great wheat belt of Manitoba is 15,000 by 400 miles in size, and is rapidly filling up with an industrious farming population. It is largely Lutheran, and the Synod of the Northwest is looking after the interests of the Church."

— The new Norwegian Lutheran Hospital at Fergus Falls, Minn., was dedicated on September 13. The sermon was by the president of the United Lutheran Church, the Rev. Dahl.

— Muhlenberg College, Allentown, Pa., received recently the sum of $6,000 from Mrs. Anna Louisa Rhoades, a member of the Trinity Lutheran Church. The money is to be devoted to the erection of Rhoades' Hall, a section of the Berks' Hall, as a memorial to her deceased son, John Warren Rhoades.

— Rev. R. W. Hufford, D.D., of Reading, Pa., has been called as pastor of the church at Atchinson, Kan.

— Rev. E. Unangst, D.D., for many years a missionary in Guntur, India, died suddenly at his home in Hollidaysburg, Pa., on October 12, 1903.

— Rev. A. H. Waters took so much interest in the Lutheran Church in Melrose, Fla., which he founded, that he has left it a bequest of $3,000. He provides that the fund shall constitute an endowment.

— Calvary Church, Springfield, Ohio, Rev. F. G. Gotwald, pastor, has paid off the last item of debt on its property.

— The cornerstone of the new church edifice in process of erection by Calvary Church, Chillicothe, Ohio, Rev. George H. Schnur, pastor, was laid with appropriate ceremonies on Sunday, September 17. The sermon was preached by Rev. James C. Schindel of Newark, Ohio, and a number of visiting clergymen participated in the exercises. The stone was laid by Pastor Schnur.

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Luther League

Conducted by I. S. RUNYON

SEND IN THE NEWS.—Under this heading we aim to give the fullest reports possible of all District and Local Leagues. Secretaries and other officers are earnestly solicited to send in reports and items of news promptly.

Luther League of America

Organized at Pittsburgh, Pa., October 30 and 31, 1895, by delegates representing State, District and individual organizations from twenty different States in the Union and the District of Columbia.

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Notice to Secretaries

— Every State and District Statistical Secretary is requested to forward to the undersigned at once his name and full address (street and number), with the name of the State or District of which he is an officer. Where there is no Statistical Secretary the Corresponding Secretary will please act in his stead. New statistical blanks have been prepared. I desire the full and prompt co-operation of all District and State Secretaries. Let us come to the Buffalo convention with complete reports. Chas. K. Hunton, Statistical Secretary, 440 South Eighteenth street, Columbus, Ohio.

NEW YORK

New York City District

— A regular meeting of the New York City League was held at St. James' Church, Rev. Dr. J. B. Remensnyder, pastor, on Wednesday evening, November 18. The president, Mr. Runyon, presided. A report of the delegation to the State League Convention was rendered, three members of the delegation participating, each presenting different features of the work of the convention. The Committee on Arrangements for the convention presented its report, which, among other particulars, showed a cash balance of about $160 from the fund collected to entertain the convention. This fund was set aside for use for future conventions and the extension work. The League decided to hold the annual dinner about the last of January. The Literature Committee reported that it is developing a plan for a series of lectures, constituting a normal course for teachers in Sunday school and other branches of religious work. Dr. Remensnyder briefly addressed the delegates, commending the course of the League in emphasizing the importance of education in religion, and complimenting it upon the dignified manner in which its conventions and meetings are conducted. A Nominating Committee was appointed to offer candidates for officers to be elected at the annual meeting which will occur at Epiphany Church on Monday evening, January 18, 1904.

— The annual celebration of Luther Day by the New York City League was held at the Church of the Advent, Ninety-third street and Broadway, Rev. G. F. Krotel, D.D., LL.D., pastor, on the evening of November 10. The Church of the Advent loaned its edifice for the celebration to the League of Holy Trinity Church because Holy Trinity's building is still incomplete. Rev. C. Armand Miller, pastor of Holy Trinity, conducted the vesper service and made an introductory address. A response was made by Mr. I. S. Runyon, president of the League, who presided. The address of the evening, on "Clean-Cut Convictions," was delivered by Rev. John A. W. Haas, D.D., pastor of St. Paul's Church, New York. With his usual force and eloquence Dr. Haas showed that Martin Luther's "convictions" upon the fundamental truths of sin, and salvation by faith in Christ alone, were largely responsible for his determined stand against the enemies of the truth, and for the success of his battle against them. Music for the occasion was provided by Mr. Emanuel Schmauk, organist of Holy Trinity Church, and his quartette.

— The Young Men's Association of St. Peter's Church is collecting funds for a window in the new church edifice, now being erected at the corner of Fifty-fourth street and Lexington avenue. The window is a memorial to the deceased members of the church and will cost $2000.

Brooklyn District

— On November 16 a large delegation of the Brooklyn District Luther League assembled in Emanuel's Church, Seventh street, near Sixth avenue, Rev. Emil Roth, pastor. After the transaction of routine business, Mr. William J. Dilthey, president of the League, gave the delegates a summary of some of the best thoughts of the recent State Convention, which awakened much interest. Rev. Henry C. Freimuth of Rockville Center gave a strong Luther League talk on "Personal Sacrifice," which was well received. Rev. Emil Roth made a brief address and prophesied that the Luther League will eventually bring about a union of the best in Lutheran churches, and said he has more faith and hope of the Brooklyn District League than ever before. The League of Calvary Church, which has been inactive for some time, reported a reorganization and 37 new members. St. Matthew's Young Men's League was represented by Mr. Letcher, its president, and made application for membership.

Delaware and Hudson District.

— The fifth annual convention of the Delaware and Hudson District Luther League was held in St. John's Lutheran Church, Altamont, on Wednesday and Thursday, November 11 and 12. The delegates and visitors were warmly welcomed by the local committee and escorted to the spacious and comfortable church, where a sumptuous dinner awaited them. The session opened at 2 p.m., the president, W. H. Rector of Binghamton, presiding. The Rev. E. L. Tucker of Central Bridge conducted the devotional services. The pastor of the church, the Rev. A. A. Frederick, extended a warm greeting, which was fittingly responded to by President Rector, and the Rev. G. A. Getty of Cobleskill on behalf of the District League. The Leagues of Central Bridge and Schoharie became members of the District League. The committee reports showed interest, activity, progress. All the local Leagues responded encouragingly to roll call. Mr. W. L. Bradt of Binghamton, a District delegate, gave "Echoes of the State Convention," and also presented a helpful paper on "The Benefits of the League to the Individual." The Rev. Carl Kramer of Berne spoke on "Does the Luther League Meet the Demands of the Times, *i.e.*, Does It Reach and Properly Develop the Young People of Our Church?" which elicited a warm discussion. Supper was served by the ladies of the church. The evening "Rally Service" opened at 7.45 p.m., presided over by Pastor Frederick. The church choir rendered excellent music. The Revs. Kramer and Manken conducted the devotional service, and the Rev. C. W. Heisler, D.D., pastor of the First Lutheran Church, Albany, held the close attention of the large congregation on "Bible Study." His topic was timely, clearly and interestingly presented and well received. A "Social Hour," in which all joined fittingly, closed the first day's session. The Thursday session opened at 8.15 a.m. The Rev. Henry Manken, pastor of the newly organized and prosperous mission at Oneonta, spoke on "What Should Be the Relation of the Luther League to Missions?" and the interest of the convention in this great question of the Church was commendable. Many spoke on the subject, among whom was the Rev. L. P. Ludden, a popular missionary secretary of the General Synod. The Rev. Frank Wolford of Middleburg conducted the "Question Box." The officers of the convention were re-elected, viz.: Pres., W. H. Rector, Binghamton; vice-pres., George Augsbury, Altamont; rec. sec., Mrs. W H. Golding, Cobleskill; cor. sec., Fred. Smith, Albany; treas., Miss Blanche Best, Middleburg. The annual dues were raised from $2 to $3 The convention was well attended, was enthusiastic and businesslike. Every League subscribes for the LEAGUE REVIEW, and the District League ordered its Extension Committee to distribute 25 copies monthly at its expense. There is progress along all lines, and the outlook for aggressive League work is very encouraging. Resolutions of thanks were extended to the hospitable people of St. John's Church for their royal entertainment.

Albany District

— The twelfth annual convention of the Albany District Luther League was held in St. James Lutheran Church, Gloversville, November 4. After suitable opening exercises at 10 o'clock a. m., the pastor of the church, Rev. John J. Dominic, gave a very cordial address of welcome, which was responded to by Mr. A. A. Coney, president of the District League. The formal address of this session was given by Rev. George W. Fritsch of Amsterdam; subject, "Inspiration from Luther." The address

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was most excellent and delivered with impressive earnestness. Mr. Augustus Krien of the Luther League of Trinity Church, Albany, gave an invitation from his League to the Albany District to hold the next convention with them. This invitation was most thankfully accepted. The District Convention has not been held in this church, and their kindness is greatly appreciated. In the afternoon there was an address by Mr. Clifford A. Rockwell of Utica on "Deaconesses and Their Work," which was carefully prepared and well delivered. Rev. Julius A. Reichardt of Canajoharie followed, speaking on the question, "How Much Do You Weigh?" His point was that weight of Christian character and brain are the real forces in religious activity. The speech abounded in pleasing illustrations. Rev. N. E. Yeiser of Troy spoke on "Foreign Missions." Having been a successful missionary in India, he spoke in a forcible and interesting manner on the subject, which always rouses his enthusiasm. Rev. L. F. Gruber of Utica gave the last address of the afternoon on the topic, "The Relations of the Luther League to the Church," which your reporter thinks would be a most acceptable article for THE REVIEW. It was overflowing with good points and hints, all most pleasantly and eloquently presented. The reports of the secretary and treasurer displayed a very satisfactory state of affairs in the District. The statistics showed a gain in membership, which no doubt would be larger if our Leagues were more careful in preparing and forwarding their reports. The evening session was devoted to an address by Rev. Luther M. Kuhns, the secretary of the Luther League of America, whose subject was "The League Work." Every one who has ever heard our enthusiastic secretary knows that his address was thoughtful, profitable, impressive and inspiring. All unite in saying that the convention was most excellent. The attendance was large, the programme interesting and profitable, the sociability of the members was very noticeable and most delightful. Our hosts were unexcelled in their lavish provision for the entertainment of the delegates. The Junior Double Quartette in their two efforts of the afternoon deserve commendable mention for their pleasant work. The former officers of the District League were all re-elected. They are: Archibald A. Coney, Canajoharie, pres.: Rev. Noah E. Yeiser, Troy, vice-pres.; Miss Edith F. Thompson, Palatine Bridge, cor. sec.: H. F. Leloup, Jr., Troy, rec. sec.; Edward W. Shineman, Schenectady, treas.

— St. James' Church of Gloversville has a fine Junior Luther League, having a very large and enthusiastic membership.

PENNSYLVANIA

Upper Lehigh Valley District

— The nineteenth semiannual convention of the Upper Lehigh Valley District League, held in Trinity Church, Lansford, on November 3 and 4, was very interesting and successful. All the sessions were well attended, and especially the evening session, when the church was packed with a very large audience. The first session was opened with devotional exercises by Rev. G. G. Kunkle of Summit Hill. A very cordial welcome was extended by the pastor, Rev. C. J. Gable, to which the president, Rev. A. O. Ebert, responded on behalf of the delegates. The morning session was taken up with the reports of officers and committees. The devotions of the afternoon session were conducted by Rev. W. P. Barr of Weatherly. The fol-

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lowing topics were presented: "The Educational Feature of the Luther League:" *a.* "The Plan," by Rev. A. G. Wuchter of Effort; *b.* "The Purpose," by Miss Schrader of West Hazleton; *c.* "The Means," by Miss Steward of Freeland. It was decided under this head to have a Correspondence Committee, composed of Drs. Bruning, Rehrig and Rev. A. C. Wuchter, to aid all those wishing to take up studies on religious subjects at home. After the report of the delegates to the State Convention, Mr. Rudolph Warnke spoke on "Why Do We Hold Luther League Conventions?" and Miss Jennie Earnhart of White Haven discussed the topic, "What Should Be the Attitude of the Luther League Toward the Societies of Other Denominations?" The vesper service was conducted by Rev. W. C. Lauer of East Mauch Chunk. The subjects of the evening addresses were: "How Shall We Interest Luther Leaguers in Mission Work?" presented in an excellent address by Rev. W. M. Rehrig of Mauch Chunk; "Higher Education of Young Women," by Rev. J. F. Lambert of Catasaqua, and "Education of Young Men," by Rev. G. G. Kunkle, Summit Hill. The choir rendered very fine anthems. At the Wednesday morning session Rev. A. C. Wuchter presented an excellent and carefully prepared paper on "Music." This subject will be presented at the next convention. At this session it was decided that the share of $10 which we hold in the LUTHER LEAGUE REVIEW be donated toward the support of the General Secretary. Also that the president be appointed as agent for the LUTHER LEAGUE REVIEW, and it was urged upon every League to take as many copies as possible, so that at least 100 be subscribed for in our District. The League donated, again, $25 toward the North Scranton Mission. In reference to the Muhlenberg College Memorial Hall, the District League heartily endorsed the plan and pledged $115 for one room on first floor, $50 of which is to be paid immediately. This cause was also heartily recommended to the local Leagues, and all were urged to give as liberally as possible. As a substitute for the spring convention there will probably be a joint convention with the Northeastern District League. The next regular convention will meet in Freeland.

Lancaster District

— The District Luther League of Lancaster and neighboring counties held its ninth annual convention on Thursday, November 19, in St. John's Lutheran Church at Shiremanstown, Cumberland County, Rev. H. K. Lantz, pastor. There were three sessions of the convention, and addresses were delivered on the general subject, "The Work of Uniting and Educating the Young People of Our Mother Church of Protestantism."

Williamsport District

— The Luther League of the Church at Montgomery, Rev. J. W. Lake, D.D., pastor, held its annual meeting, November 18, and elected the following officers: Pres., Mrs. Ada Reed; vice-pres., Edward Hagenbuch; sec., Miss Maud Hunter; treas., R. D. Hagenbuch; organist, Miss Pauline Honsel; assist. organist, Benjamin Oberdorf. The League is in a flourishing condition.

Northeastern District

— The annual meeting of the Luther League of Christ Church, Wilkes-Barre, was held October 8. The following officers were elected: Pres., John H. Musselman; vice-pres., Henry Miller; rec. sec., Miss Mary Eitel; cor. sec., Miss Bertha Bachert; treas., Mrs. J. A. Zehner. Miss Frances Kantner was elected delegate to the State Convention. An interesting report of the District League convention at Dorrence was rendered by the delegates.

Pittsburg District

— The twenty-third convention of the Pittsburgh Central was held in Christ Lutheran Church, Beaver Falls, Pa., Rev. J. L. Fischer, pastor, on Tuesday, November 17. After the opening service, which was conducted by the Rev. G. W. Critchlow, greetings were extended by the pastor loci, and a response made by the president, Rev. J. M. Guss, A.M., Etna. After the reception of delegates and reading of minutes, the following officers were elected by a unanimous vote: Pres., Rev. J. M. Guss, A.M., Etna; rec. sec., Miss Emma A. King, Allegheny, Pa.; stat. sec., Miss Sadie S. Cupples, Pittsburgh, Pa., and treas., Mrs. A. K. Shanor, Allegheny. Four new Leagues were received into the Central—Luther League, St. John's Church, East Liverpool, Ohio; Luther League, Emmanuel Church, Prospect, Luther League, St. Paul's Church, Beaver Falls, and Junior Luther League, Immanuel Church, Etna. This makes a total of 34 societies representing four counties of Pennsylvania and one of Ohio. Under the topics for discussion an address was made by the Rev. Edmund Belfour, D.D., on "Why Should Our Young Men Choose the Ministry For a Life Work?" A resolution was adopted requesting the Extension Committee to have this topic presented to all the local societies for discussion, and they to report at the next convention. Next followed a paper by Mr. Jesse Martsolf of New Brighton on the subject, "Work in the Individual Congregation." Under the head of "Business," a General Committee of Arrangements for next State Convention was appointed, with Mr. Chas. W. Fuhr of Pittsburgh as chairman. An invitation to hold the spring convention at Tarentum was accepted. A new constitution was adopted, the principal features of which are: A change of name to "The Pittsburgh Central Luther League;" making the presidents of all local societies vice-presidents of the Central; giving to each society five, instead of two, delegates, and making the dues $1 for each society, to be paid at the fall convention. After a delightful social hour, during which an excellent lunch was served by the Luther League and the Dorcas Society of Christ Church, an evening session was held, the service being conducted by the Rev. C. K. Fegley of Allegheny. For the first time at these conventions the "Luther League

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Hymnal" was used, and the service there recommended followed. The subject for the evening session, "Lutheran Literature and Life," was ably presented in an address by the Rev. Alonzo J. Turkle, D.D., of Allegheny, Pa. Excellent music at both sessions was rendered by a chorus composed of young people of the Beaver Valley. A large attendance characterized both sessions, and it adds another to the already long list of successful conventions of this Central.

OHIO

— The Executive Committee has decided that the next convention of the Luther League of Ohio shall be held June 22, 23 at Newark, Ohio, in the church of which Rev. J. C. Schindel is pastor. Rev. F. P. Bossart, pres.; Grace Hunton, rec. sec.

Springfield District

— The second convention of the Springfield District of the Ohio Luther League was held on October 30 at Calvary Church, Rev. F. G. Gotwald, pastor. Miss Christina Metzgar of Springfield made an able report of the proceedings of the State League Convention, and the following papers were read and addresses delivered: "The Best Method of Conducting a Devotional Meeting," by Rev. H. E. Simon of Osborn; "The Best Use of the Luther League Reading Course," by Miss Emma Schell, Urbana: "Advantages of a District League," by C. C. Roop, Springfield; "Twentieth Century Lutheranism in Europe," by Rev. Dr. V. G. A. Tressler of Springfield, and a closing address by Rev. Dr. Bauslin of Wittenberg Seminary.

— The Luther League of Trinity Church, Middle Point, Rev. E. M. Potts, pastor, has just donated $30 to foreign missions, making in all $150 for this one object alone, beside contributions to other beneficence.

NEW JERSEY

— A study of "Luther's Life and Work" was held on Sunday evening, November 1, by the Luther League of Holy Trinity Church, Elizabeth. Mr. Clarence Kline, the president of the League, was the leader. The Luther League service was used. Hymns of Luther and of Reformation times were sung. Miss Mary Martin, the League organist, presided at the organ. Papers were read on "Luther as a Monk," by John Meyer, Jr.; on "Luther as a Protestant," by Miss Elsie Piehler, and an address was made on "Luther as a Reformer," by the pastor, the Rev. Fredk. C. Krapf.

ILLINOIS

Galesburg District

— The "Luther Alliance" of the German Church at Beardstown recently entertained the annual convention of the Galesburg District Luther League.

NORTH CAROLINA

— Two Luther Leagues, one of young men and one of young women, are to be organized at Lenoir College, at Hickory. Those in charge of the plans are examining the League's plan and literature in order that at the start full use may be made of the advantages offered by the League for building up a strong, active, helpful young people's society.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

— *The Evening Star*, Washington, has recently given the Luther League a place in the columns of its Saturday issue devoted to religious news. Space is given to the notes on the topic for the week and to news of the local Leagues. Mr. Cornelius Eckhardt, who is connected with *The Evening Star*, deserves the credit of securing this advantage to the Leagues of Washington.

— The Luther League of Zion's English Lutheran Church, The Dalles, Ore., Wm. Brenner, pastor, was reorganized on January, 1903, with 20 charter members. The membership is now 35. Devotional meetings are held every Friday evening, and business meetings on the first Friday in each month. The Reading Course has been taken up, and Luther League Topics and Hymnals are being used. The present officers are: Anna Stubling, pres.; Bertha Kellar, vice-pres.; Margaret Stuben, sec.; Louise Cramer, treas.; Esther Beck, librarian.—Margaret E. Stuben, secretary.

KANSAS

— The Kansas Conference Luther League was held in the Swedish Lutheran Church at Topeka, Rev. A. M. L. Herenius, pastor, October 16, 17 and 18. A large representation was present and the weather was beautiful. The opening address on the "Importance of Our Young People Being Entirely on Christ's Side" was delivered by Dr. J. Eckholm, Bethany College. The address of welcome was delivered by Rev. A. M. L. Herenius. Frank Nelson responded. The following officers were elected at the business session Saturday morning: Pres., Frank Nelson, Lindsborg; vice-pres., Dr. J. Ekholm, Lindsborg; sec., Miss Seraphine Erickson, Kansas City, Mo.; treas., Emil Cederberg, Walsburg. The Executive Committee consists of Frank Nelson, Rev. E. Pihlblad, Lindsborg, and C. M. Holmquist, Salina. The Saturday afternoon session was given entirely to papers and discussions. Rev. G. A. Dorf, Burdick, presented a paper on the subject, "Do We Need the Luther Leagues in Our Congregations?" He was followed by Rev. C. A. Engstrand, Walsburg, who had chosen for his subject, "Why Do So Few of Our Young People Devote Themselves to the Ministry and the Charitable Work of Our Church?" Both papers brought out many valuable suggestions and a very interesting discussion. Mr. Emil Cederburg, Walsburg, read an essay on "A Parable," and Frank Nelson spoke on "The Work of Our Young People." Sunday evening Rev. C. A. Engstrand, Walsburg, and Rev. E. Glad of Kansas City were the speakers, and short addresses were made by Revs. M. O. Oden, G. A. Dorf, A. M. L. Herenius and Mr. Frank Nelson. In closing the convention the president urged all to remember two words during the coming year, namely "Do" and "Duty." He expressed the conviction that if each one would do his duty the next annual convention would be even a greater success.

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And the thoughts of youth are long, long thoughts."—*Longfellow.*

"We do not take possession of our ideas, but are possessed by them."—*Heine.*

We beg to call attention to the beautifully finished booklet of Junior Luther League Topics prepared for the use of the Church by Mr. Charles W. Fuhr of the Diamond Bank of Pittsburgh, Pa. The plan of the work is very simple. A child can easily understand it. There are daily Bible readings for each week in the Church-year and the papers prepared are on subjects taken from the Bible, sacred and church-history, missionary enterprises, etc.

A few questions are added to call forth the *sense* of the lesson from the mind of the scholar, and the whole is arranged to run for one year, with the exception of six Sundays of the summer interim.

The whole will be found a most useful adjunct to the work of our Junior Leagues. Full directions are given for the use of the book.

Such a work, in connection with the Topics furnished by the Luther League of America must prove a most interesting and helpful adjunct to the work of advancing the young life of the coming Church.

PROPOSED PROGRAMME FOR A CHRISTMAS EXERCISE BY THE JUNIORS.

The Opening or Processional Hymn.

Prayer of Invocation, by the Pastor or Leader.

Address of Welcome.

Chorus.

Scripture Reading, or Recitation.

The Creed.

The Hymn of Adoration, Recitations, Dialogues, etc.

Hymn of Joy.

Special Features, such as Pictures of the Life of Jesus, tableau of some appropriate Christmas scene, or an allegorical figure of Charity.

Distribution, Announcements, etc.

Hymn (closing).

Dismissal—by Recessional.

Our Calendar for 1904

The Literature Committee has decided that the scope and the form of the next issue of the Calendar had better be submitted to the decision of the National Convention in Buffalo next summer, so that the general sentiment of our Leaguers everywhere may have a chance to express itself. Thus a more widespread interest will be aroused, and we will give the people exactly what they want, making such changes and improvements on the present experimental form as may be suggested from various sections of the country.

This means that during 1904 the monthly series of comments in the Review will continue to be published, on such items of the Calendar as could not be touched upon during the present year, on account of lack of space. There is abundant material for another year's study in the Calendar we now have, for it has by no means been exhausted. Even those subjects which have been briefly expanded, have much more of a story to tell.

Let every District Luther League discuss this matter very freely and fully before the National convention. The columns of the Review are cheerfully open to any articles on the subject.

Daily Bible Readings

Dec. 6. II Advent—Isaiah 7: 14; Luke 1: 32-35.
Monday—Proverbs 19: 16-29.
Tuesday—Matthew 7: 1-12.
Wednesday—James 2: 1-26.
Thursday—Luke 8: 14-21.
Friday—Acts 11: 19-29.
Saturday—II Corinthians 8: 1-24.

Dec. 13. III Advent—Luke 6: 38; Mark 4: 21-25; I Corinthians 16: 1-3.
Monday—Isaiah 42: 1-10.
Tuesday—Colossians 4: 1-6.
Wednesday—I Corinthians 10: 31-33.
Thursday—I Peter 4: 1-11.
Friday—Romans 1: 1-11.
Saturday—Ephesians 5: 15-21.

Dec. 20. IV Advent—Psalm 33: 1-5; Colossians 3: 16, 17.
Monday—Galatians 4: 1-4.
Tuesday—Psalm 143: 1-12.
Wednesday—Acts 13: 38-43.
Thursday—Galatians 2: 1-21.
Christmas—Luke 2: 1-20.
Saturday—John 1: 29-34.